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Inspection of immigrants at Santiago during the week ended December 15, 1900.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *December 15, 1900.*

SIR: I herewith submit report of alien steerage passengers at this port during the week ended December 15, 1900:

Date.	Vessel.	Where from.	No. of immi- grants
Dec. 12	Br. sc. Annie E. Wood.....	Kingston, Jamaica.....	17
Dec. 13	Am. ss. Saratoga.....	New York via Nassau, New Province.....	1
Dec. 15	Provisional flag ss. Tomas Brooks ...	Port au Prince, Haiti	16
	Total.....	34

Respectfully,

R. H. VON EZDORF,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

FRANCE.

De Moura's experiments with rattlesnake venom as a cure for leprosy.

PARIS, FRANCE, *December 21, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to state that John Bale, London, has published "A Handbook of the Gnats or Mosquitoes, giving the anatomy and like history of the Culicidæ," by Maj. G. M. Giles, J. M. S., M. B., London, etc. It contains 374 pages and the price is 15 shillings. This book is reviewed in the December "Revue d'Hygiène" and spoken of as an authority on its subject. The presswork and cuts are criticised.

In "Le Bulletin Medical" of December 5 an article appeared on the curative value of rattlesnake poison for leprosy. I inclose a translation of the greater part of the same.

Respectfully,

S. B. GRUBBS,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

[Inclosure.]

Mr. Ad. Marcoudes de Moura states that in Brazil the poison of the rattlesnake is considered a cure for leprosy. The natives bitten by this animal, after recovering from the intoxication, are always thereafter immune to leprosy. Wishing to investigate upon what this popular belief was based, this author collected the poison of a rattlesnake by squeezing out on a piece of cotton the contents of the poison glands. The cotton was then placed in a mixture of water and glycerin, equal parts. After having thus obtained a sufficient quantity of solution, he determined its approximative virulence by injecting dogs. He then gave daily, by the mouth, to 2 lepers, doses one-fifth of what would have been dangerous if injected. After some time he gave them injections, every two or three days, of one-tenth of this dangerous dose.

This treatment caused at first only fever and sweats, then, after some time, pains that necessitated lengthening the intervals between the injections. The results obtained by Mr. Marcoudes de Moura were excellent, especially when he employed injections. Of 15 cases treated (of which 14 were of the tubercular form) he did not have a single case of failure.

On this subject Mr. L. Servin published a criticism on this popular belief of the cure of leprosy by rattlesnake poison. He thinks it has no specific action on the cutaneous forms (determinations) of leprosy. He reports that a leper let a rattlesnake bite him on the hand. Twenty-four hours after the patient died. This fact proves that lepers are not immune to the poison of this serpent.